



## **Sap flow through petioles and petioles reveals leaf-level responses to light and vapor pressure deficit in the tropical tree *Tabebuia rosea* (Bignoniaceae)**

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1 Sap flow through petioles and petiolules reveals leaf-level responses to light and vapor  
2 pressure deficit in the tropical tree *Tabebuia rosea* (Bignoniaceae)

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## 29ABSTRACT

30Continuous measurements of sap flow have been widely used to measure water flux  
31through tree stems and branches. However, these measurements lack the resolution  
32necessary for determining fine-scale, leaf-level responses to environmental variables.  
33We used the heat ratio method to measure sap flow rates through leaf petioles and  
34leaflet petiolules of saplings of the tropical tree *Tabebuia rosea* (Bignoniaceae) to  
35determine how leaf and leaflet sap flow responds to variation in light and vapor pressure  
36deficit (VPD). We found that in the morning sap flow rates to east-facing leaves  
37increased 26 minutes before adjacent west-facing leaves. Although leaves had higher  
38integrated sap flow than their largest leaflet, this difference was not proportional to the  
39difference in leaf area, which could be due to lower conduit area in petiolules than in  
40petioles. In contrast to measurements on main stems, integrated daily sap flow was  
41negatively correlated with daily mean VPD. Furthermore, leaves exhibited previously  
42undescribed patterns of hysteresis in the sap flow-VPD and sap flow-PAR relationships.  
43When hysteresis in the sap flow-PAR relationship was clockwise, the sap flow-VPD  
44relationship was also clockwise; however, when hysteresis in the sap flow-PAR  
45relationship was counterclockwise, the sap flow-VPD relationship displayed an  
46intersected loop. These pattern differences highlight how substantially leaf-level  
47processes may vary within a canopy and how leaf-level processes may not scale  
48predictably to the stem level.

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## 53INTRODUCTION

54        Approximately 90% of all water converted from the liquid phase to the vapor  
 55phase in terrestrial ecosystems moves through plants (Jasechko et al. 2013); in the  
 56tropics this amounts to an estimated  $32 \times 10^{15}$  kg of water per year (Hetherington and  
 57Woodward 2003). Almost all of this water transits through plant leaves. Understanding  
 58how leaves respond to abiotic drivers is important for modeling efforts at scales from  
 59leaves to landscapes (Jarvis and McNaughton 1986). At the leaf level, knowing which  
 60drivers impact transpiration most under daily and seasonally varying conditions is critical  
 61to understanding what may limit the distribution and abundance of species across the  
 62globe.

63        Various sap flow methods are commonly used to estimate almost continuously  
 64tree responses to environmental conditions for extended time periods (Marshall 1958,  
 65Granier 1985, Burgess et al. 2001, Vandegehuchte and Steppe 2012). These  
 66measurements are most often made on boles or large branches of trees and can be  
 67used to estimate canopy-level responses to changing environmental conditions (Oren et  
 68al. 1999a, Ewers and Oren 2000, Traver et al. 2010). Despite recent technical  
 69advancements in using sap flow measurements in stems to estimate canopy processes,  
 70a number of problems remain. First, resistance and capacitance in the hydraulic  
 71pathway creates time lags in water movement between different points in the hydraulic  
 72pathway (Köcher et al. 2013). For tropical trees, lags in sap flow between branches in  
 73the canopy and the stem base can approach an hour (Meinzer et al. 2004). Second,  
 74different parts of the canopy respond to environmental conditions largely independently  
 75(Brooks et al. 2003), such that sap flow measurements on branches or boles may  
 76provide only an average response of many leaves or branches. For example, east-  
 77facing branches of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* reached their maximum daily sap flow  
 78rates 6 hours before west-facing branches at the same height (Burgess and Dawson  
 792008). Although sap flow measurements on boles and branches have provided useful

80 estimates of whole-tree water use (Wullschlegel et al. 1998), their utility for describing  
 81 leaf-level processes can be limited by a variety of factors including time lags,  
 82 capacitance, hydraulic resistance, and variation in these factors along the root-to-leaf  
 83 continuum.

84       Rarely have researchers attempted to measure sap flow rates through petioles of  
 85 individual leaves (Sheriff 1972). Recently, Clearwater (2009) adapted the heat ratio  
 86 method (HRM; Burgess et al. 2001) originally used for measuring sap flow through large  
 87 stems to measure sap flow through small diameter stems, fruit pedicels, and leaf  
 88 petioles. Slight variations of this method have proven useful in measuring sap flux  
 89 through petioles under field conditions in the neotropics (Roddy and Dawson 2012,  
 90 2013, Goldsmith et al. 2013) and through stems of anatomically and phylogenetically  
 91 diverse species of the South African fynbos flora (Skelton et al. 2013). These studies  
 92 show that measuring sap flow directly adjacent to transpiring leaves can deepen our  
 93 understanding of how leaves respond to variation in environmental conditions across a  
 94 range of timescales. Placing sensors in close proximity to the transpiring leaves has the  
 95 advantage of fine-scale measurements akin to leaf gas exchange without the  
 96 disadvantage of enclosing leaves in a cuvette that removes the leaf boundary layer and  
 97 otherwise modifies the leaf microenvironment.

98       Variation in sap flux is influenced by a variety of environmental conditions,  
 99 including soil water availability, vapor pressure deficit (VPD), and solar radiation, and  
 100 diurnal patterns may also vary seasonally (e.g. O'Grady et al. 1999, 2008, Zeppel et al.  
 101 2004). Over diurnal cycles, a change in an environmental variable in the morning does  
 102 not always produce an equivalent response in sap flow as it does in the afternoon.  
 103 Such a pattern is termed hysteresis and has been commonly observed in the sap flow  
 104 responses to light and VPD. For example, at a given VPD that occurs both in the  
 105 morning and again in the afternoon, sap velocity is higher in the morning (when VPD is  
 106 increasing) than in the afternoon (when VPD is decreasing), creating a clockwise

107 pattern of hysteresis throughout the day (Meinzer et al. 1997, O'Grady et al. 1999,  
 108 Zeppel et al. 2004) that is consistent with hysteresis in canopy gas exchange (Takagi et  
 109 al. 1998). Despite the ubiquity of hysteresis in sap flow data, its causes are rarely  
 110 discussed. Hysteresis in a relationship indicates that factors other than the primary  
 111 descriptor variable are constraining the response variable. For the relationship between  
 112 sap flow and VPD, it is thought that hysteresis results from variation in hydraulic  
 113 capacitance, resistance, or stomatal sensitivity to VPD (O'Grady et al. 1999). In the  
 114 simplest case, no hysteresis in the sap flow-VPD relationship would mean that an  
 115 increase and a decrease in VPD produce equivalent responses in sap flow and that  
 116 there are no other factors influencing the sap flow response to VPD. However, a  
 117 number of factors could cause deviation in the morning and the afternoon from this  
 118 scenario of no hysteresis. First, trees often supply their morning transpiration from  
 119 capacitive stores, which could elevate morning sap flow above that observed if there  
 120 were no capacitance (Cowan 1972, Goldstein et al. 1998, Meinzer et al. 2004, 2008).  
 121 Second, as stem water potential declines throughout the day, resistance in the hydraulic  
 122 pathway increases, as is commonly observed in vulnerability curves (Meinzer et al.  
 123 2009), which could depress afternoon sap flow below that if there were no resistance.  
 124 Both of these hydraulic factors, resistance and capacitance, could jointly be responsible  
 125 for causing hysteresis in the sap flow-VPD relationship. Morning transpiration may draw  
 126 largely on stored water, and as this hydraulic capacitor discharges, resistance may  
 127 become important in depressing afternoon sap flow.

128        In contrast to VPD hysteresis, causes of hysteresis in the sap flow-light  
 129 relationship are less clear. While the sap flow-VPD relationship commonly exhibits a  
 130 clockwise pattern of hysteresis, the sap flow-light relationship generally exhibits a  
 131 counterclockwise pattern (Meinzer et al. 1997, Zeppel et al. 2004). Zeppel et al. (2004)  
 132 argued that counterclockwise hysteresis in the sap flow-light relationship results from  
 133 the combination of (1) the difference in timing between peak light and peak VPD and (2)

different stomatal responses to light and to VPD. Because VPD reaches its daily peak a few hours after light reaches its daily maximum at solar noon, sap velocity will be higher in the afternoon, when VPD is higher and stomata are fully open. Zeppel et al. (2004) argue that stomatal conductance saturates at relatively low light levels in the morning, and that above this saturating light level, VPD becomes the predominant driver of transpiration and sap flow. These responses probably vary between leaves acclimated to different microenvironments (e.g. between sun- and shade-leaves).

Using sap flow measurements on main stems of canopy trees to test these hypotheses for the causes of hysteresis are thus fraught with potential problems that focusing on leaves may circumvent. For leaves, sap flow responses to VPD are often similar to those for stems, although under some conditions leaves show different patterns (Roddy and Dawson 2013). In addition to clockwise hysteresis in the responses to VPD, sap flow through petioles sometimes exhibits an intersected loop (or 'figure-eight') pattern in response to diurnal variation in VPD. Determining the sap flow responses to environmental variables of individual leaves provides an opportunity to better elucidate important dynamics of plant water use. Furthermore, incorporating explicit measurements of sap flow to individual leaves could help to improve upon methods for scaling up to whole canopy processes.

In the present study, we measured sap flow rates through petioles and petiolules of saplings of the tropical tree *Tabebuia rosea* (Bignoniaceae) to understand how sap flow responds to variation in light and VPD. Because the figure-eight pattern of hysteresis in the sap flow-VPD relationship reported by Roddy and Dawson (2013) may result from an interaction with light, we also measured photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) levels on each leaf or leaflet to determine the conditions under which different patterns of hysteresis may occur. We were particularly interested in examining the differences in sap flow patterns between adjacent leaves and between leaves and leaflets because different microenvironmental conditions may cause sap flow patterns to

161 differ between leaves on the same stem. Furthermore, differences in sap flux through  
 162 petioles and petiolules may reflect variation in hydraulic architecture. If the hydraulic  
 163 pathway constricts downstream, then sap velocity must increase as it moves towards  
 164 leaflets. Our results highlight how measuring sap flow rates to individual leaves could  
 165 deepen our understanding of the linkages between hydraulic architecture and plant  
 166 water use.

167

## 168 **METHODS**

### 169 **Plant Material**

170       *Tabebuia rosea* (Bignoniaceae) grows to become a canopy tree in the lowland  
 171 forests of central Panama. While adults are often deciduous, seedlings are evergreen  
 172 with five palmate leaflets of varying size encircling the petiole. Plants were grown from  
 173 seed in 20-liter, insulated pots outdoors under a glass roof at the plant growth facilities  
 174 of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Gamboa, Panama, until a few days  
 175 before sap flow measurements were begun. When the tops of the plants were ~70 cm  
 176 above the soil surface, they were transferred to a glass chamber to protect them from  
 177 strong afternoon winds. The lower ~1 m of this chamber was made of cement painted  
 178 white, and doors on east- and west-facing sides of the chamber were left ajar to allow  
 179 air circulation. At the beginning of the sap flow measurements, the tops of the plants  
 180 were even with the top of the cement wall at the base of the chamber, and during the  
 181 course of the experiment two new sets of leaves were produced. Pots were kept well-  
 182 watered except for one week when water was withheld to determine how sap flow rates  
 183 would respond to declining soil water. This week coincided with a dramatic increase in  
 184 VPD. Sensors were installed when plants were approximately eight months old, a few  
 185 days after transferring them to the glass chamber.

186

### 187 **Sap flow measurements**



188 On each measured leaf, sap flow sensors were installed on the leaf petiole and  
 189 on the petiolule of the middle, largest leaflet. On each plant, two adjacent leaves on  
 190 opposite sides of the plant were chosen for measurement. At the time of installation,  
 191 these leaves were the newest, fully-expanded leaves on each plant. Plants were  
 192 positioned so that the axis defined by the two measured leaves on each plant were  
 193 oriented east-west. Of the total 12 sensors installed, five failed, leaving two sensors on  
 194 petiolules and five sensors on petioles.

195 Sap flow sensors and measurements were based on the design and theory of  
 196 Clearwater (2009) with some slight modifications described previously (Roddy and  
 197 Dawson 2012, 2013) and again briefly here. Sensors were constructed from a silicone  
 198 backing and were connected to 10 cm leads with Molex connectors that were then  
 199 connected by 10 m leads to an AM16/32 multiplexer and CR23X datalogger (Campbell  
 200 Scientific Inc., Logan, UT). Sensors were held in place with parafilm, and sensors and  
 201 connections were insulated with multiple layers of bubblewrap and aluminum foil at least  
 202 2 cm above and below the sensor. Consistent with previous applications of the HRM,  
 203 we measured initial temperatures for 10 seconds prior to firing a 4-second heat pulse,  
 204 monitored temperatures every 2 seconds for 200 seconds after the heat pulse, and  
 205 initiated the measurement routine every 10 minutes.

206 The heat pulse velocity,  $v_h$  (cm s<sup>-1</sup>), was calculated from the temperature ratio as:  
 207

$$v_h = \frac{k}{x} \ln \left( \frac{\delta T_1}{\delta T_2} \right)$$

208 where  $v_h$  is the heat pulse velocity in cm s<sup>-1</sup>,  $k$  is the thermal diffusivity (cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>),  $x$  is the  
 209 distance from the heater to each of the thermocouples (cm), and  $\delta T_1$  and  $\delta T_2$  are the  
 210 temperature rises (°C) above and below the heater, respectively (Marshall 1958,  
 211 Burgess et al. 2001, Clearwater et al. 2009). We estimated the thermal diffusivity as:  
 212

$$k = \frac{x^2}{4t_m}$$

213 where  $t_m$  is the time (seconds) between the heat pulse and the maximum temperature  
 214 rise recorded  $x$  cm above or below the heater under conditions of zero sap flow  
 215 (Clearwater et al. 2009). We measured  $t_m$  every morning before dawn when  
 216 atmospheric vapor pressures were lowest (between 0500 and 0600 hrs). At this time,  
 217 the vapor pressure deficit was almost always below 0.3 kPa, and therefore we assumed  
 218  $v_h$  was approximately zero. Thermal diffusivity,  $k$ , was calculated for each thermocouple  
 219 (upstream and downstream) from these predawn measurements of  $t_m$ , averaged for  
 220 each sensor, and used to calculate  $v_h$  from the heat ratios for the subsequent 24 hours.  
 221 Measurements of  $k$  on nights with VPD always above 0.3 kPa were discarded and  
 222 replaced with the most recently measured  $k$  when VPD < 0.3 kPa. We estimated the  
 223 temperature ratio under zero-flow conditions by excising petioles and petiolules above  
 224 and below the sensor at predawn at the end of the experiment, greasing the cut ends,  
 225 placing the segments in a darkened box, and recording the temperature ratios for the  
 226 subsequent ~4 hours. The average of these zero-flow temperature ratios corresponded  
 227 very well with the temperature ratios recorded predawn under low VPD (less than ~0.3  
 228 kPa) conditions. The sensor-specific average temperature ratio under zero-flow  
 229 conditions was subtracted from all calculated heat ratios. This corrected heat ratio was  
 230 then used to calculate  $v_h$ .

231

## 232 **Measurements of light and vapor pressure deficit**

233 Light measurements were made using S1787 photodiodes (Hamamatsu Photonics,  
 234 Hamamatsu City, Japan). Photodiodes were connected to 15 cm long copper wires with  
 235 Molex connectors and then to 10 m leads, which were connected to a CR5000  
 236 datalogger measuring in differential mode. Circuits created by each photodiode were  
 237 closed with a 100 Ohm resistor. Photodiodes were installed just above each leaflet with  
 238 a sap flow sensor, and the photodiode was positioned to be parallel to the axis of the  
 239 central vein of the leaflet. Light measurements were made every minute and averaged

every 10 minutes. Voltage measurements from the photodiodes were converted to PAR based on a calibration of all photodiodes against a PAR sensor (LI-SB190, LiCor Biosciences, Logan, UT), during which time all sensors were situated adjacent to each other in a clearing that received full sunlight.

Vapor pressure deficit was calculated from temperature and relative humidity measurements made every 10 minutes with a HOBO U23 datalogger (Onset Computer Corp., Bourne, MA) that was housed in a covered, white, PVC, Y-shaped tube and hung level with the tops of the plants.

248

## 249 **Data analysis**

All analyses were performed using R (R Core Team 2012). Raw velocity measurements were processed following previously published methods (Roddy and Dawson 2012, 2013, Skelton et al. 2013). Measurements of  $v_h$  were smoothed using the 'loess' function, which fits a polynomial to a subset of the data in a moving window of 35 points.

For analyses of structure (leaf vs. leaflet) or aspect (east- vs. west-facing leaves), sap flow measurements from individual sensors in each group were averaged. To estimate the total sap flow during the day and night, we integrated the time course of  $v_h$  measurements for each day and night using the 'auc' function in the package *MESS*, which calculates the area under the curve using the trapezoid rule. Daytime was defined as being between 600 and 1800 hours, which corresponded to morning and evening twilight. To minimize the effects of nocturnal refilling, we defined nighttime as being between 100 and 600 hours, which assumed that diurnal water potential declines had mostly recovered within seven hours after sunset. To analyze the effects of VPD on integrated sap flow rates, we linearly regressed integrated sap flow against mean VPD. In all regressions for leaves and leaflets in the day and in the night, the linear model

was determined to be as good or better than both the logarithmic and power functions by comparing the residual standard errors.

Differences in the timing of morning sap flow between east- and west-facing leaves were compared at a critical  $v_h$  of 1.5 cm hr<sup>-1</sup>. We chose this critical value because it was higher than any measured nighttime velocities and lower than most daytime velocities. We estimated the time at which  $v_h = 1.5$  cm hr<sup>-1</sup> by assuming a linear relationship ( $y = mx + b$ ) between the two sequential morning measurements that spanned  $v_h$  of 1.5 cm hr<sup>-1</sup>. To compare east- versus west-facing leaves and leaves versus leaflets, we used linear mixed effect models with day as the random variable, which accounts for repeated measures.

## RESULTS

Daily maximum VPD varied from 2.8 kPa to 6.9 kPa during the experiment, while daily maximum PAR at the top of the canopy varied from 1125 to 1640  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$ . The daily maximum sap flow rate through petioles varied between 1.4 cm hr<sup>-1</sup> to 4.5 cm hr<sup>-1</sup>. This lowest daily maximum  $v_h$  occurred at the end of a week without water, during which time five of the seven hottest, driest days occurred. Nighttime  $v_h$  through petioles varied throughout the study, but was always below 1.0 cm hr<sup>-1</sup> and below 0.5 cm hr<sup>-1</sup> on all but seven nights. Overall, thermal diffusivity,  $k$ , ranged from 0.00136 to 0.00170 cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. There were slight differences in  $k$  between sensors, but  $k$  was relatively constant throughout the experiment for each sensor, consistent with previously reported values for  $k$  from a diverse set of plant structures and species (Clearwater et al. 2009, Roddy and Dawson 2012, 2013, Skelton et al. 2013).

On every morning, sap flow rates to east-facing leaves increased more quickly than did sap flow rates to west-facing leaves. East-facing leaves had sap flow rates of 1.5 cm hr<sup>-1</sup> on average 26 minutes before sap flow rates to west-facing leaves reached the same threshold ( $t = 5.67$ ,  $df = 23$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 1). In addition, on 18 out of 25

293 days, west-facing leaves reached their daily peak sap flow rate later in the day than  
 294 east-facing leaves. However, sap flow rates to east-facing leaves did not decline any  
 295 earlier in the evening than west-facing leaves, and east-facing leaves generally had  
 296 higher nighttime sap flow rates than west-facing leaves, perhaps indicative of greater  
 297 refilling.

298        Patterns of sap flow to leaves and leaflets also differed. Leaflets generally had  
 299 lower sap flow rates than leaves, and the daily integrated sap flow through petioles and  
 300 petiolules differed significantly ( $t = 7.42$ ,  $df = 24$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 2). While water was  
 301 withheld for one week, daily maximum sap velocities for both leaves and leaflets  
 302 declined such that leaflet sap flow rates were about half of those to leaves (Figure 2a).  
 303 On the day immediately following re-watering, leaves and leaflets had almost equivalent  
 304 sap flow rates, which continued to increase on subsequent days despite declining daily  
 305 maximum VPD during these days. Daytime integrated sap flow to leaves and leaflets  
 306 was negatively correlated with mean VPD (Figure 3), both when including all days and  
 307 when the last five days of the drought treatment were excluded (Table 1). There was a  
 308 significant, negative relationship only between nighttime integrated sap flow of leaflets  
 309 and mean nighttime VPD, but only when all data, including the drought days, were  
 310 included. There was no relationship between nighttime VPD and integrated sap flow for  
 311 leaves. Maximum  $v_h$  for leaves occurred at a slightly higher VPD than it did for leaflets  
 312 (2.21 kPa vs. 2.06 kPa; grey symbols in Figure 3).

313        Patterns of sap flow hysteresis can be grouped into two classes, exemplified by  
 314 data from two days from the same leaf shown in Figure 4. Data in Figure 4 are  
 315 consistent with the patterns seen for other sensors on other days. The first type of  
 316 hysteresis pattern is denoted by clockwise hysteresis in the relationship between  $v_h$  and  
 317 VPD (Figure 4a). On this day, hysteresis in the  $v_h$ -PAR relationship was also clockwise  
 318 (Figure 4b). The second type of hysteresis is defined by an intersected loop, or figure-  
 319 eight pattern, in the relationship between  $v_h$  and VPD (Figure 4d). On this day, the  $v_h$ -

320 PAR relationship had a counterclockwise pattern (Figure 4e). Nonetheless, the  
 321 relationship between PAR and VPD for these two days was similar, showing a  
 322 counterclockwise pattern for both days (Figure 4c,f).

323

324

## 325 **DISCUSSION**

326 Leaf physiology responds rapidly to changes in the leaf microenvironment in  
 327 ways not previously appreciated (Zhang et al. 2013), and leaves may protect stems  
 328 from low water potentials that can lead to loss of xylem functioning (Sperry 1986, Hao et  
 329 al. 2008, Chen et al. 2009, 2010, Johnson et al. 2011, Bucci et al. 2012, Zhang et al.  
 330 2013). As a result, there has been burgeoning interest in the diurnal variability of leaf  
 331 hydraulic functioning (Brodribb and Holbrook 2004, 2007, Johnson et al. 2009, Johnson  
 332 et al. 2011, Wheeler et al. 2013). The new techniques for measuring leaf-level sap flow  
 333 used here may become critical in quantifying diurnal variability in leaf functioning. Our  
 334 results highlight how water use can differ significantly even between adjacent leaves,  
 335 further justifying the need for fine-scale measurements like ours in quantifying leaf  
 336 responses to environmental drivers. Notably, our sap flow measurements on individual  
 337 leaves suggest that there may be important functional linkages between hydraulic  
 338 architecture and water use. While a number of studies have shown these linkages for  
 339 stems, substantially fewer attempts have been made to connect leaf hydraulic  
 340 architecture to water use under natural conditions.

341 East- and west-facing leaves showed a number of differences in their patterns of  
 342 daily sap flow (Figure 1a). Midday depression of  $v_h$  occurred in leaves on both sides of  
 343 the plant, although not always at the same time of day, probably due to a combination of  
 344 factors including differences in leaf energy balance and differences in the temporal and  
 345 spatial dynamics of leaf water potential changes. Furthermore, aspect significantly  
 346 affected the timing and rates of sap flow. Sap flow rates to east-facing leaves

347increased, on average, 26 minutes earlier in the morning than they did to west-facing  
 348leaves, due to earlier increases in leaf-level PAR to east-facing leaves than to west-  
 349facing leaves. Despite these differences in timing, leaf hydraulic conductance of east-  
 350and west-facing leaves may be similar if higher transpiration rates in east-facing leaves  
 351are accompanied by greater declines in leaf water potential. Leaf microclimatic  
 352conditions can cause substantial differences between even adjacent leaves on the  
 353same branch (Figure 1), which can influence the dynamics of branch sap flow (Burgess  
 354and Dawson 2008). How much influence water use by one leaf may have on water use  
 355by another, adjacent leaf is likely related to xylem hydraulic architecture. In addition to  
 356flowing longitudinally from roots to leaves, water may also flow laterally within a stem  
 357(MacKay and Weatherley 1973, James et al. 2003, Schulte and Costa 2010). The  
 358degree of this lateral flow varies among species and results from lateral connections  
 359between adjacent xylem vessels. Highly sectorized xylem leads to close coupling of  
 360water uptake by roots on one side of the plant and water use by leaves on the same  
 361side of the plant. In this case, adjacent leaves on different sides of the plants would  
 362draw upon largely different pools of water in the stem. High sectoriality in xylem  
 363architecture allows plant parts to function independently, such that branches or leaves  
 364may compete little for water (Brooks et al. 2003, Orians et al. 2005). In contrast, highly  
 365integrated xylem (low sectoriality) leads to tighter hydraulic linkages between adjacent  
 366leaves on different sides of the stem axis. While we do not know how well integrated  
 367the xylem of adjacent leaves in *T. rosea* may be, orthostichous leaves (vertically aligned  
 368along the shoot axis) generally have more interconnected vasculature than do non-  
 369orthostichous leaves (those on different sides of a shoot; Watson and Casper 1984,  
 370Orians et al. 2005). Thus, adjacent east- and west-facing *T. rosea* leaves probably  
 371function more independently than would two east-facing, orthostichous leaves. Sap  
 372flow to individual leaves varies among leaves on the same branch, and the magnitude  
 373of this variation may itself vary among species depending on xylem architecture.

374 Patterns of sap flow through petioles were similar to patterns observed for  
 375 petioles of other tropical species (Roddy and Dawson 2012, 2013), but, in some cases,  
 376 different from patterns observed for main stems. On some days, patterns of hysteresis  
 377 in the  $v_h$ -VPD relationship were similar to those seen for main stems of canopy trees  
 378 (Meinzer et al. 1997, O'Grady et al. 1999, 2008, Zeppel et al. 2004; Figure 4a). In this  
 379 type of hysteresis,  $v_h$  was higher in the morning than in the afternoon for a given VPD,  
 380 creating a clockwise loop in the relationship between  $v_h$  and VPD. On days when the  $v_h$ -  
 381 VPD relationship showed a clockwise loop, the  $v_h$ -PAR relationship also had a clockwise  
 382 hysteresis loop (Figure 4b). In contrast, for main stems, a clockwise  $v_h$ -VPD loop is  
 383 normally accompanied by a counterclockwise  $v_h$ -PAR loop (Zeppel et al. 2004). On  
 384 days with this first type of hysteresis,  $v_h$  was higher in the morning than in the afternoon,  
 385 with maximum daily  $v_h$  occurring closer in time to peak PAR than to peak VPD. On  
 386 these days, PAR peaked early in the day, saturating stomatal conductance and leading  
 387 to high  $v_h$  even when VPD was moderate. However, we observed a second type of  
 388 hysteresis, characterized by a counterclockwise loop in the  $v_h$ -PAR relationship (Figure  
 389 4e) that, unlike for main stems, was accompanied by a markedly different relationship  
 390 between  $v_h$  and VPD. When the  $v_h$ -PAR relationship exhibited counterclockwise  
 391 hysteresis, the  $v_h$ -VPD relationship was characterized by an intersected loop, or figure-  
 392 eight (Figure 4d). Although this intersected loop has been reported previously for main  
 393 stems (Meinzer et al. 1999, O'Grady et al. 1999, 2008), its meaning has not been fully  
 394 discussed or understood. This pattern occurred when afternoon  $v_h$  was higher than  
 395 morning  $v_h$ , causing maximum daily  $v_h$  to occur closer in time to peak daily VPD than to  
 396 peak daily PAR. If morning transpiration is low and does not result in substantial water  
 397 potential declines, then  $v_h$  may peak in the afternoon when VPD peaks, as occurred on  
 398 the second day shown. Why morning sap flow on this day was so low remains unclear  
 399 but may be due to low water potentials, which we did not measure. Regardless, this  
 400 second type of hysteresis exhibiting an intersected loop requires (1) a bimodal peak in



the daily  $v_h$  pattern (i.e. midday depression of gas exchange, which commonly occurs in tropical species) and (2) maximum daily  $v_h$  to occur in the afternoon. Because slight midday depression of  $v_h$  occurred on both days shown in Figure 4, midday depression alone may not lead to the intersected loop hysteresis. The second day did, however, have a higher afternoon VPD both in absolute terms (maximum of 4.77 compared to 3.44 kPa) and relative to PAR (Figure 4c,f), which was probably partly responsible for increased afternoon transpiration.

The most probable cause underlying such different patterns of hysteresis for individual leaves and for main stems is likely to be a matter of scale. Sap flow through stems integrates the individual sap flow responses of many leaves in drastically different microclimates. One of the most obvious sources of within-canopy variation is between different parts of a plant canopy that undergo different diurnal patterns of incident PAR, yet measurements on main stems ignore most of this within-canopy variation. In the present study, leaf aspect influenced patterns of sap flow, and previous studies on branches have shown that aspect influences both absolute rates of sap flow and the timing of peak sap flow within the day (Steinberg et al. 1990, Akilan et al. 1994, Martin et al. 2001, Alarcón et al. 2003, Burgess and Dawson 2008; Figure 1). Time lags between daily peaks of sap flow for east- and west-facing branches of large trees would result in different patterns of hysteresis depending on branch aspect (Burgess and Dawson 2008), and these patterns for branches may be similar to the second type of hysteresis (the figure-eight) we report for individual leaves. By measuring incident PAR to each leaf, we attempted in the present study to account for some of the variation in leaf microclimate that influences sap flow. However, we still ignored some important factors, such as leaf temperature and its effects on leaf saturation vapor pressure and the vapor pressure gradient (VPG) driving transpiration. This may be an acceptable oversight because atmospheric humidity has a greater impact on stomatal conductance than does leaf temperature (Fredeen and Sage 1999, Mott and Peak 2010). In addition

428to microclimatic variation, leaves and stems differ in their hydraulic architecture, which  
 429could influence sap flow patterns and hysteresis. Leaf water balance changes rapidly  
 430as efflux and influx of water vary asynchronously on the timescale of seconds (Sheriff  
 431and Sinclair 1973, Sheriff 1974). Water balance of stems may not change as rapidly,  
 432however, because of the compensatory effects of having numerous parallel pathways  
 433for water entry and loss. Thus, transpiration and sap flow may vary over much shorter  
 434timescales for leaves than for stems. Examining and quantifying sap flow hysteresis  
 435may provide new insights into hydraulic functioning in response to various abiotic  
 436factors influencing transpiration (Zeppel et al. 2004, Pfautsch and Adams 2013, Roddy  
 437and Dawson 2013).

438 Integrated daily plant water use, as measured by sap flow, generally increases  
 439with increasing mean and maximum daily VPD for plants from a wide variety of habitats,  
 440including canopy trees and shrubs (e.g. Zeppel et al. 2004, Pfautsch and Adams 2013,  
 441Skelton et al. 2013). However, in our experiment integrated daily leaf water use  
 442decreased with increasing mean daily VPD (Figure 3), whether days of declining soil  
 443water content were included in the analysis or not (Table 1). There was a significant  
 444negative relationship between integrated nocturnal sap flow and VPD for leaflets, but  
 445not for leaves, although this relationship was driven by very low nighttime sap flow  
 446during the drought (Table 1). For both leaves and leaflets, the VPD at which maximum  
 447daily  $v_h$  occurred was remarkably well conserved across days (2.21 and 2.06 kPa,  
 448respectively) and was, interestingly, the same whether maximum  $v_h$  occurred in the  
 449morning or in the afternoon (Figure 4a,d). These patterns opposite to those seen in  
 450main stems may result from higher than normal VPDs during our experiment. Leaves of  
 451 *T. rosea* saplings may rarely encounter such high daytime VPD under natural  
 452conditions, and stomatal sensitivity to VPD may be responsible for the negative  
 453relationship we observed (Oren et al. 1999b). At VPD above ~2 kPa, instantaneous sap  
 454flow rates often declined, consistent with stomatal closure to regulate transpiration rate

455 and leaf water potential. For *T. rosea* saplings, the VPD at maximum  $v_h$  was higher than  
 456 the VPD at maximum  $g_s$  of other species, perhaps because of the higher than normal  
 457 VPD during our experiment and the time lag between reaching maximum  $g_s$  and  
 458 maximum  $v_h$  due to hydraulic resistance.

459 In response to declining soil water availability, daily maximum  $v_h$  declined for both  
 460 leaves and leaflets despite increasing VPD during this time. Rewatering caused an  
 461 immediate increase in leaflet  $v_h$ , such that it almost equaled leaf  $v_h$  (Fig. 2).  
 462 Nonetheless, integrated leaflet sap flow was, on average, 30% less than leaf sap flow.  
 463 Assuming the ratio of leaflet area to conduit cross-sectional area (LA:SA ratio) is the  
 464 same for all leaflets, then instantaneous and integrated leaflet sap flow, as a fraction of  
 465 leaf sap flow, should be proportional to leaflet area. However, both instantaneous and  
 466 integrated leaflet sap flow were higher than this prediction, probably because cross-  
 467 sectional conduit area of petiolules is lower than that of petioles. This could result from  
 468 a combination of conduit taper and differences in the number of conduits between ranks  
 469 (McCulloh et al. 2009, 2010). Although we did not measure conduit dimensions, our  
 470 results highlight the potential linkages between leaf hydraulic architecture and diurnal  
 471 patterns of water use at different scales. As of yet, there has been remarkably little  
 472 effort to connect xylem structure-function relationships to continuous, sap flow  
 473 measurements of plant water use.

474

475

## 476 CONCLUSIONS

477 Understanding leaf-level responses to abiotic conditions is critical for modeling  
 478 plant responses to future climate change. In the present study, we found that leaves  
 479 often exhibit sap flow responses to abiotic drivers that are notably different from  
 480 responses of stems, for two main reasons: (1) stems integrate over many leaves, each  
 481 with their own microclimate and (2) moving the sap flow sensor closer to the sites of

transpiration removes the confounding influence of capacitance distal to most stem or branch sap flow sensors. Thus, sap flow measurements on main stems may not accurately describe leaf-level processes. Furthermore, we found significant variation in sap flow patterns between adjacent leaves that are related to differences in the leaf microenvironment. Differences in sap flow between leaves and leaflets are likely due to differences in hydraulic architecture that influence patterns of water use. Future measurements of sap flow through petioles could better elucidate the biotic and abiotic drivers of transpiration dynamics under natural growth conditions.

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661 Figure legends

662

663 Figure 1. (a) Three days of sap flow for east- (dashed) and west-facing (solid) leaves.

664 Tick marks on the horizontal axis indicate at midnight. (b) Boxplot of the time lag in sap

665 flow rates between east- and west-facing leaves.

666

667 Figure 2. (a) Eight days of sap flow for leaves (solid) and leaflets (dashed). The first five

668 days corresponded to the end of a week without watering. Tick marks on the horizontal

669 axis indicate at midnight. (b) Boxplot of the daily time-integrated sap flow through

670 leaves and leaflets.

671

672 Figure 3. The relationship between daily integrated sap flow and mean daily VPD for

673 leaves (triangles) and leaflets (circles). Black points represent the last five days during

674 the drought treatment. Grey points at the bottom mark the mean VPD (and standard

675 error) at which maximum daily sap flow occurred for leaves and leaflets.

676

677 Figure 4. The pairwise relationships between  $v_n$ , VPD, and PAR for two days (top and

678 bottom rows). (a,d) The  $v_n$ -VPD relationship differed between the two days, as did the

679 (b,e)  $v_n$ -PAR relationship. (c,f) However, the VPD-PAR relationship was approximately

680 the same for the two days.

681

682 Table 1. Summary statistics for the linear regressions between integrated sap distance  
 683 and mean VPD for leaves and leaflets in the day and in the night, whether including  
 684 data from the week of drought or not.

685

|       |            | Leaves         |      |      |                 | Leaflets       |      |      |                  |
|-------|------------|----------------|------|------|-----------------|----------------|------|------|------------------|
|       |            | R <sup>2</sup> | t    | d.f. | P               | R <sup>2</sup> | t    | d.f. | P                |
| Day   | All        | 0.26           | 3.05 | 23   | <b>&lt;0.01</b> | 0.40           | 4.15 | 23   | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |
|       | No drought | 0.22           | 2.51 | 18   | <b>0.02</b>     | 0.20           | 2.42 | 18   | <b>0.03</b>      |
| Night | All        | 0.04           | 0.94 | 23   | 0.36            | 0.28           | 3.19 | 23   | <b>&lt;0.01</b>  |
|       | No drought | 0.02           | 0.55 | 18   | 0.59            | 0.13           | 1.98 | 18   | 0.06             |

686

## Figure legends

Figure 1. (a) Three days of sap flow for east- (dashed) and west-facing (solid) leaves. Tick marks on the horizontal axis indicate at midnight. (b) Boxplot of the time lag in sap flow rates between east- and west-facing leaves.

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Table 1. Summary statistics for the linear regressions between integrated sap distance and mean VPD for leaves and leaflets in the day and in the night, whether including data from the week of drought or not.

Figure 1

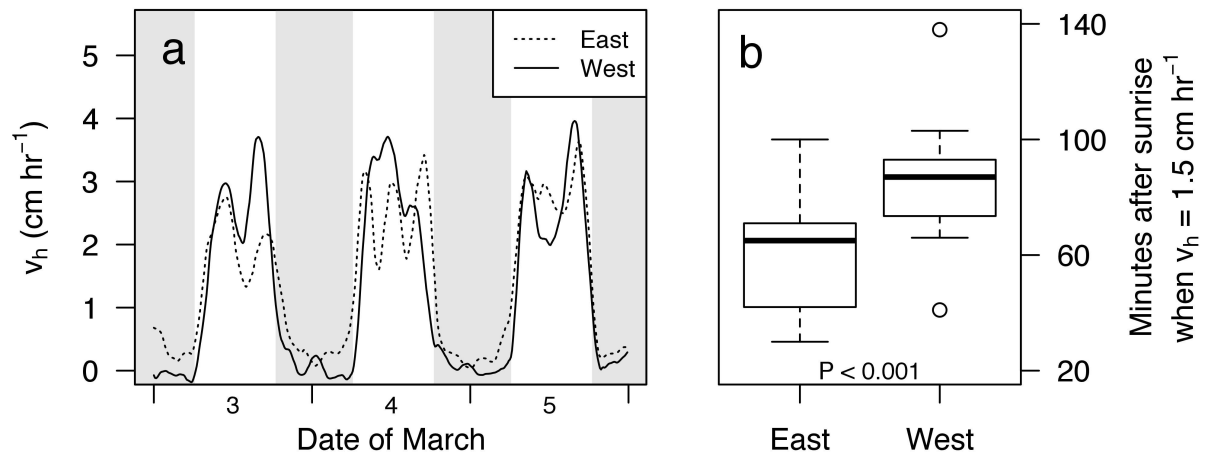


Figure 2

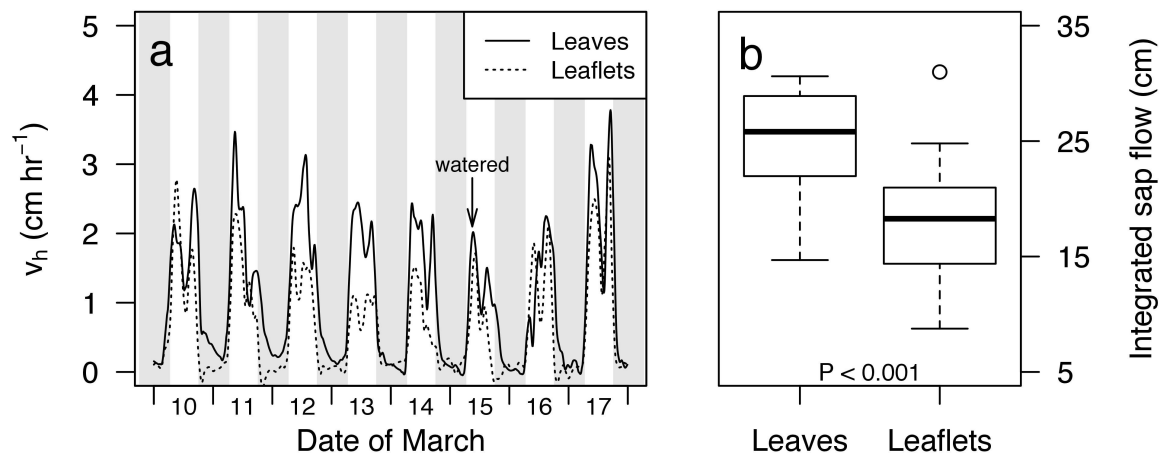




Figure 3

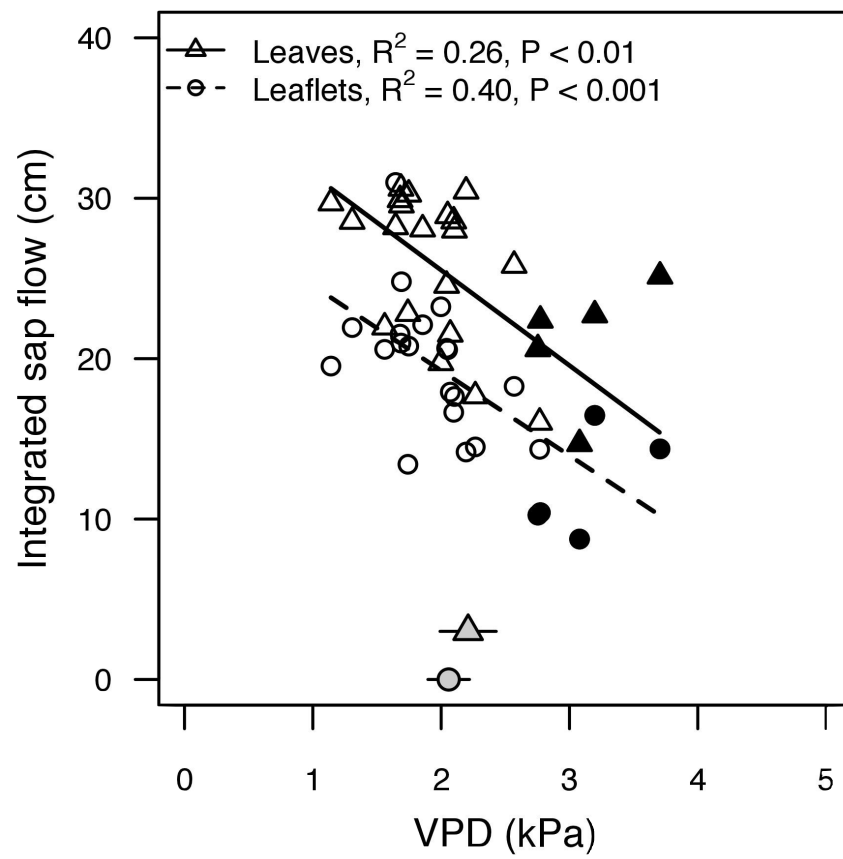


Figure 4

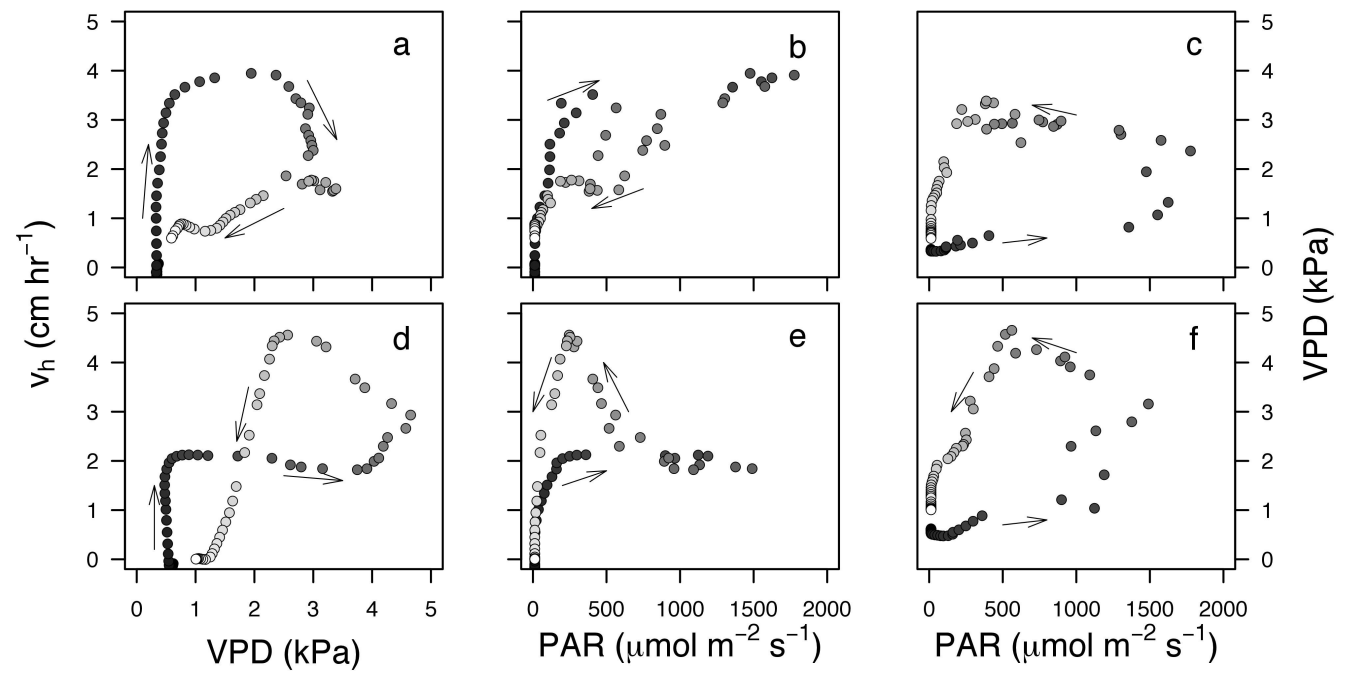


Table 1

|       |            | Leaves         |      |      |                 | Leaflets       |      |      |                  |
|-------|------------|----------------|------|------|-----------------|----------------|------|------|------------------|
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